

# Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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July & August, 2003

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## A 105th Anniversary

### A Centennial

This fall, we will celebrate the 105th anniversary of the founding of our Parish. In September of 1898 our founders incorporated as "The Greek Catholic Church: Transfiguration of Christ". We will celebrate the courage and faithfulness of these founders with a 105th Anniversary dinner on Sunday, 5 October.

However, an even more important anniversary will occur in the first week of August and will be celebrated both at our July 27th picnic and at our Parish Feast day on Wednesday, 6 August. It was 100 years ago this coming August that His Grace (Later Patriarch of All Russia and now a Confessor and Martyr of the Church) Tikhon of San Francisco, arrived in Denver to receive the congregation into the Holy Orthodox Church. Three times in three successive years, St. Tikhon returned to Denver to look after his new congregations in Colorado.

The Parish of St. Michael in Pueblo will also celebrate its centennial later this fall and Holy Dormition in Calhan will mark the 100th anniversary of their first Temple in August of 2004.

The Holy Scriptures admonish us to "Praise famous men and our fathers who begot us". It is, therefore, both right and proper for us to celebrate the memory of those who mortgaged their little home to build a house for their God and who were not afraid to stand up to those who sought to change their faith but risked losing what they had built in order to bring themselves and their children back to the fullness of Holy Orthodoxy which had been denied to them in their Austro-Hungarian homeland.

After the return to Holy Orthodoxy of our founders, Orthodoxy spread from here to the Western Slope and as far as Wyoming and Montana where Parishes of our own or other jurisdictions preserve that Faith to this day. In a real way, we are "The Mother Church of all Orthodoxy in the Rocky Mountain West.

## 105th Annual Picnic

On Sunday, 27 July, we will have our 105th Summer get together and Picnic in honor of St. Vladimir.

This has always been a time when present and scattered members of our parish have gathered to enjoy each other's company in the cool comfort of our beautiful grounds and to be refreshed and nourished with our incomparable summer cuisine.

The picnic is also a time when we are able to put a few hundred extra dollars into our treasury for our Summer bills and to enable the kids to earn some money for their youth fund which, among other things, helps to pay part of our kids' summer camp fees.

We hope to see everyone there for our last big party before the Dormition Fast. We also hope to have plenty of helpers for our set-up, cooking and clean up. Ladies should remember the Summer Bake Sale which helps to fund the Sisterhood's many charities.

## Holy Transfiguration Day

Again, this year, we will serve the Vigil on 5 August, which is a Tuesday this year, and we will have our Feastday Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. on the 6th. After both services there will be a blessing of grapes and of summer fruit and there will be a Lenten pot luck after Liturgy on the 6th. (Fish, wine and oil are allowed that day.)

## Bishop Tikhon's 25th Anniversary

On Wednesday, 9 July, in Los Angeles, His Grace, Bishop Tikhon will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Parishes throughout the Diocese are sending gifts to honor this day and any parishioners who so wish can give their donations to Chris Jobanputra by Sunday, 6 July. We will send one check but can have a card for our people to sign.

## New Vestments

Many Years to Betty Davidovich who donated a beautiful set of imported red Priest's Vestments to the Church. These were made in the Patriarchal workshop in Moscow. They will be used first for Ss. Peter & Paul on Sunday, 29 June.

## Education News

Summer Camp- will be held from 10-13 August at Glacier View Ranch West of Boulder. Cost is \$110 per child and the Church will pay 1/2 for any of our active young people or adult helpers. Applications are available in the Parish Hall and are due back by Mid-July.

Church School- ended with a successful graduation on Holy Pentecost. Thanks to Michelle Dyl who made the lovely gifts for our students. Thanks, also to the teachers who were recognized with gift certificates. Church school will resume on the Sunday after Holy Cross, 21 September.

Adult Classes- will be held this summer. Sandie Kennedy will hold a Saturday session on the making of Holy Prospora (Procure). See Sandie to arrange a mutually convenient day.

Altar Servers Classes will continue through 20 July and Advanced Readers Classes will resume in August. Fr. Deacon Averky conducts both courses.

Weekday Adult Classes on Orthodox Topics- are scheduled to resume in July. Those who are interested should see Fr. Joseph to discover the time, which is most convenient for those who wish to participate.

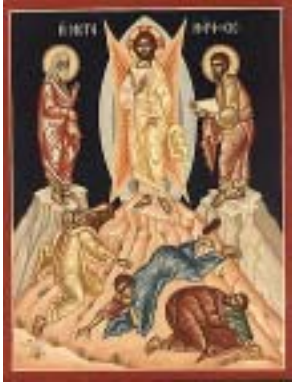
## R.A.F.A. Fundraiser

Again this year the Romanian American Freedom Alliance that was founded at our church in 1989, will hold its Cultural and Food Festival on the Pearl Street Mall in Boulder. The date for the event is Saturday, 26 July which is the set-up day for our Picnic. Perhaps we can finish the set-up around noon and go as a group to this charity event.

## Trash Situation

Because of revenue loss the City is no longer willing to pick up the trash generated by the Hall and grounds. Subsequently, we are having to pay \$45 a month for the green dumpster on Clark Place. Please be sure to put trash bags inside of the dumpster which will help us to avoid mess, smell and our being a cat and squirrel feeding station.

Please be so kind as to sign up for and cook for one of the many open coffee hour luncheons during July and August!



# Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

349 E 47th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado, 8021

*Archpriest Joseph Hirsch-Dean*

*July & August, 2003*

*Dearlly Beloved in Christ,*

*In June of 1984 when Matushka and I accepted your invitation and that of Bishop Boris to relocate to Denver, we had no idea of the historical significance of this Parish. Standing in our Temple on that June day on which Fr. James Worth had just laid Martha Sokol to rest, I simply had the apprehension of a place made Holy by prayer. I recall having felt that It was a place in which prayers had been absorbed into the very walls.*

*Later, I heard and read the stories about how our people had mortgaged their little homes to build a place where they could, "Worship our God according to the tradition of our fathers". I read how, when the local Roman Catholic bishop tried to take over their little Church, they reached back to the Orthodoxy of their ancestors. Still, they did not fail, in love, but paid to bury their former Greek Catholic Rector when his bishop, literally, starved him to death and then used their meager savings to help his Matushka and little children to return to their native Hungary.*

*I read how, during the troubled times which followed the Russian Revolution, when money from Europe was cut off and Soviet agents made efforts to co-opt and destroy the Orthodox Faith in this land, they held on to their Faith and Temple. They even filed a law suit to request the Bishops to, tell them who their legitimate hierarch was.*

*I came to understand the warm place that our Parish held in the heart of St. Tikhon who used Denver as the missionary center for reaching Greeks, Romanians, Serbs and Carpatho-Russians throughout the entire Rocky Mountain Region and how we really are the Mother of Orthodoxy in the Rocky Mountain West.*

*Further, I learned how our people had shed their blood at Leadville and Ludlow in the massacres, which are landmarks of Colorado history; how their foes knowingly slew the women and children in their tents on Bright Monday.*

*I also came to know Sam Ivkovich, Borislav Vukovich, Sam and Zora Ninich and others who stood in the ancient tradition of the Martyrs of Kosovo and those like Pete and Valentina Kopiloff and Alex Mystkowsky, who, like St. Alexander Nevsky had to fight Devils to their East and West at the same time. I have also been blessed to see many of our "Little ones" grow to maturity in the life of Christ, including Alexander Vallens who has gone from enthusiastic four year old to an honor student in our St. Tikhon's Seminary.*

*Now, as we begin our 20th year here, Matushka and I (pushing 60) realize that we will not be here forever. We are overwhelmed with the continuing love and devotion of our people and we honor the discernment of our planning committee that we have a mission to build a larger temple right here in Globeville. We certainly must obtain the Kulick property behind our hall because it is absolutely necessary to our future and inextricably linked to our past. Whether or not, however, a second Temple will soon rise on the Kulick property depends not so much upon us as upon the new generation of Orthodox in "Holy Colorado". It will take a million dollars, for starters, to build a proper Church here and, while that is almost the same in real dollars as the \$12,000, which built our little Church in 1898, it will require an equal determination to build a Temple where God can be worshipped as is appropriate to our present and future needs.*

*Right now, we have no idea how this will all happen. One day, it seems as though we are capable of anything because of the faith, devotion, generosity and love of our people. Then, shortly thereafter, we are wondering if we are going to be able to make our monthly budget, if there will be enough singers in Church at he start the Sunday Liturgy, if there will be a luncheon after Church on Sunday or whether the Church will be cleaned in time for the next service.*

*Of course, all of these anxieties, even when grounded in reality, are simply temptation from the Devil in his attempt to distract us from God's purpose for us. We don't have to understand how God is going to carry out His purpose for and through us but simply to believe that if it is His Will, as we believe it to be, He has provided and will provide the means to bring it to perfection. As Matushka and I complete our nineteenth year, striving to do God's Will for and with you, it is our hope and our dream that the motto of our 20th year will be the Prophet David's words in the Psalms: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes". For indeed, as David says in another place, "Except The Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it".*

*In Christ,*

*Archpriest Joseph*